

nicating with the MMS which includes, but is not limited to, a conventional web browser, a custom application or any other software that can access HTML and render such to the end user. The destination or target computing device can comprise any type of processing device such as a desktop PC, laptop PC, notebook, palmtop, PDA, cellular telephone with web access, etc., and is not critical to the operation of the invention.

[0070] The mechanism of the present invention provides a user with complete access to the content on their PC (e.g., audio, video, files, application data, etc.) through the MMS content server that resides on their source PC. The multimedia server converts (i.e. translates or renders) files and resources to be delivered as an RSS document which can be further “stylized” through HTML style sheets (like XSTL) and delivered to anything capable of consuming web pages, such as for example, an ordinary Internet browser like Microsoft Internet Explorer or a specialized reader.

[0071] The invention also comprises a relay mechanism whereby the location of the MMS on the Internet does not need to be known by the MMC. MMSs register their locations with a third party authentication server located anywhere on the Internet. The MMC requests from the authentication server the location of an MMS using a unique serial number assigned to and used to uniquely identify each MMS.

[0072] Once the location of the MMS is known, a peer-to-peer connection with the MMS is created as indicated in FIG. 1. Via the peer-to-peer relationship the MMS and MMC communicate directly with each other rather than through a third party intermediary for translation or processing.

[0073] Note that in this example, the manner of how the MMC communicates with the MMS is not critical to the invention. For illustrative purposes only, user B uses a wireless PDA and user C uses a mobile device such as a cellular telephone wherein each connects to the Internet through the wireless network 20. The PC is shown connected directly to the Internet, however, it is appreciated that a laptop equipped with a wireless card can communicate over the wireless network 20 as well.

[0074] A block diagram illustrating an example computer processing system architecture suitable for use with the present invention is shown in FIG. 2. The computer system, generally referenced 40, comprises a processor 42 which may comprise a digital signal processor (DSP), central processing unit (CPU), microcontroller, microprocessor, microcomputer, ASIC or FPGA core. The system also comprises static read only memory 50 and dynamic main memory 46 all in communication with the processor. The processor is also in communication, via bus 44, with a number of peripheral devices that are also included in the computer system. Peripheral devices coupled to the bus include a display device 60 (e.g., monitor), alpha-numeric input device 62 (e.g., keyboard) and pointing device 64 (e.g., mouse, tablet, etc.)

[0075] The computer system is connected to one or more external networks such as a LAN or WAN 54 via communication lines connected to the system via a network interface card (NIC). A local communications I/F 66 provides connections to various wireless, serial and parallel devices.

Examples include Bluetooth, UWB, USB, Firewire, etc. The network adapters 56 and local communications I/F 66 coupled to the system enable the data processing system to become coupled to other data processing systems or remote printers or storage devices through intervening private or public networks. Modems, cable modem and Ethernet cards are just a few of the currently available types of network adapters.

[0076] The system also comprises magnetic or semiconductor based storage device 52 for storing application programs and data. The system comprises computer readable storage medium that may include any suitable memory means, including but not limited to, magnetic storage, optical storage, semiconductor volatile or non-volatile memory, biological memory devices, or any other memory storage device.

[0077] Software adapted to implement the RSS based PC content delivery mechanism is adapted to reside on a computer readable medium, such as a magnetic disk within a disk drive unit. Alternatively, the computer readable medium may comprise a floppy disk, removable hard disk, Flash memory 46, EEROM based memory, bubble memory storage, ROM storage, distribution media, intermediate storage media, execution memory of a computer, and any other medium or device capable of storing for later reading by a computer a computer program implementing the method of this invention. The software adapted to implement the RSS based PC content delivery mechanism of the present invention may also reside, in whole or in part, in the static or dynamic main memories or in firmware within the processor of the computer system (i.e. within microcontroller, microprocessor or microcomputer internal memory).

[0078] Other digital computer system configurations can also be employed to implement the RSS based PC content delivery mechanism of the present invention, and to the extent that a particular system configuration is capable of implementing the system and methods of this invention, it is equivalent to the representative digital computer system of FIG. 2 and within the spirit and scope of this invention.

[0079] Once they are programmed to perform particular functions pursuant to instructions from program software that implements the system and methods of this invention, such digital computer systems in effect become special purpose computers particular to the method of this invention. The techniques necessary for this are well-known to those skilled in the art of computer systems.

[0080] It is noted that computer programs implementing the system and methods of this invention will commonly be distributed to users on a distribution medium such as floppy disk or CD-ROM or may be downloaded over a network such as the Internet using FTP, HTTP, or other suitable protocols. From there, they will often be copied to a hard disk or a similar intermediate storage medium. When the programs are to be run, they will be loaded either from their distribution medium or their intermediate storage medium into the execution memory of the computer, configuring the computer to act in accordance with the method of this invention. All these operations are well-known to those skilled in the art of computer systems.

[0081] A block diagram illustrating an example mobile device/cellular phone/PDA system architecture suitable for